



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

October 27, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
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Fifth District

VERDALE/SIMI AND GRAND PRIX FIRE STATUS REPORT AS OF 11:00 A.M.

The Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) was activated at 9:30 a.m. yesterday in response to these wildfires. County departments that reported to the CEOC, or activated their own department EOCs, include Fire, Sheriff, CAO Office of Emergency Management, Probation, Animal Control, DHS Public Health, and DPSS.

The CEOC has remained in close contact with affected cities, including Claremont, La Verne, and Santa Clarita. The CEOC has also remained in contact with the California Office of Emergency Services and the American Red Cross.

Yesterday, I signed a proclamation of a local emergency covering all of Los Angeles County, with a request for a State disaster proclamation. In turn, the Governor has requested a Federal Declaration on behalf of numerous counties, including Los Angeles County. I will keep your Board informed on the status of these declarations and any assistance that may become available to governments or residents of the County who have been affected by the fire.

INFO LINE will shortly have information about services available on the County public information hotline at (800) 980-4990.

STATUS OF THE FIRE

The Grand Prix fire has burned over 10,000 acres in Los Angeles County. Sixty-six homes were damaged or destroyed in Claremont. The Verdale Fire burned over 8,600 acres, and no homes were destroyed in Los Angeles County. The Verdale Fire is in unified command between Ventura County and Los Angeles County Fire.

The Grand Prix Fire is in unified command between Los Angeles County Fire and the U.S. Forest Service.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Below are reports of activities of other County departments.

Sheriff

The Sheriff's Department coordinated mutual aid response for law enforcement and conducted evacuations and provided security in the evacuation areas. The Sheriff's department operations center (DOC) remains activated and continues to monitor the situation and deploy staff as needed. They also conducted arson patrols in the affected areas.

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

County DMH has been in contact with the American Red Cross, State DMH, and Tri-Cities Mental Health and determined that there was not a need for special mental health assistance at this time. DMH continues to closely monitor the situation and has placed Emergency Outreach Bureau staff on stand-by. DMH has also activated a hotline for the public at (800) 854-7771.

Animal Control

Animal Control worked in concert with Inland Valley Humane Society to move horses in the Claremont/La Verne areas yesterday and continues to be available to assist as required.

Probation

Two hundred forty in-custody minors and staff from Camp Afflerbaugh near San Dimas were safely evacuated yesterday. Probation developed plans for potential evacuations of camps in San Dimas, Bouquet Canyon, and Lake Hughes areas, if they become necessary.

Public Social Services (DPSS)

A DPSS representative, along with Red Cross staff, visited each shelter to assess the need for opening additional shelters or additional staffing needs. At this time, there is no need for additional shelters or staff.

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Health Services (DHS)

DHS has been in contact with hospitals and the fire department to assess the need for staff. There is no DHS activity at this time. Dr. Jonathan Fielding has prepared and released public advisories of the public health impacts of the fires.

DEJ:CP
BB:cm

c: Emergency Management Council
EMC Steering Committee
EMC Subcommittee